
Louisiana Department of Health to fund K-12 COVID Testing in Louisiana Schools

School Year: Fall 2021 - Spring 2022

Join us in K-12 COVID-19 Testing

Created in partnership with LDOE and LDH,
financed by the CDC, LDH is offering schools
COVID-19 testing options supported with
funding, resources, educational materials, testing
teams and the LDH K-12 Team for the
2021 - 2022 school year.

Goal for this presentation today

- ★ Why is testing important for the 2021-2022 School Year?
- ★ What is the Louisiana Department of Health offering every ***single school and school district*** in the state?
- ★ What are the **THREE** options schools may choose from?
- ★ What are the resources, funding, incentives, and materials that LDH is offering schools
- ★ Who is eligible to participate?
- ★ What is the incentive program?
- ★ Timeline
- ★ How to sign up!

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How can we keep schools open and minimize spread?

Routine COVID-19 Testing

School-age children and COVID-19

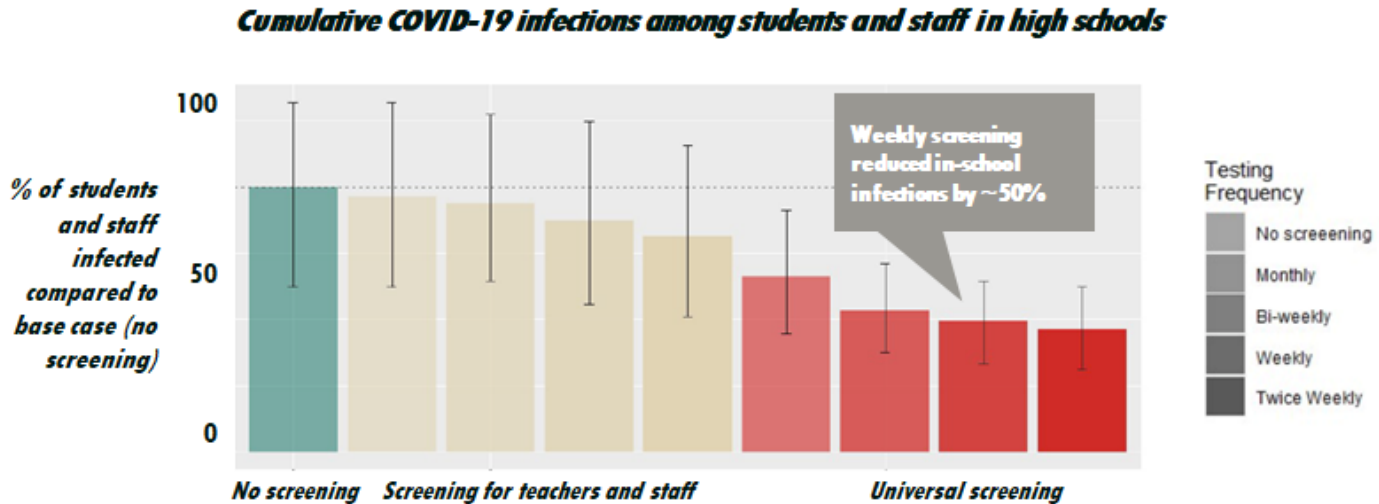
- Though less likely to develop severe illness compared to adults, children are still at risk of developing severe illness and complications from COVID-19.
 - MIS-C cases among school age students in LA: 104
 - COVID- associated deaths among school age students in LA: 5
- Children become infected and transmit to others in the community at high risk for severe illness

K-12 Testing Funding Overview

- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- Provided \$10 Billion nationally (approx. \$140 million to LA) for:
 - School-based COVID-19 screening testing for teachers, staff and students to assist schools in reopening safely for in-person instruction
 - Purpose: to allow schools to reopen and maintain safe operations
- Administered the CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Cooperative Agreement

Need for ongoing testing

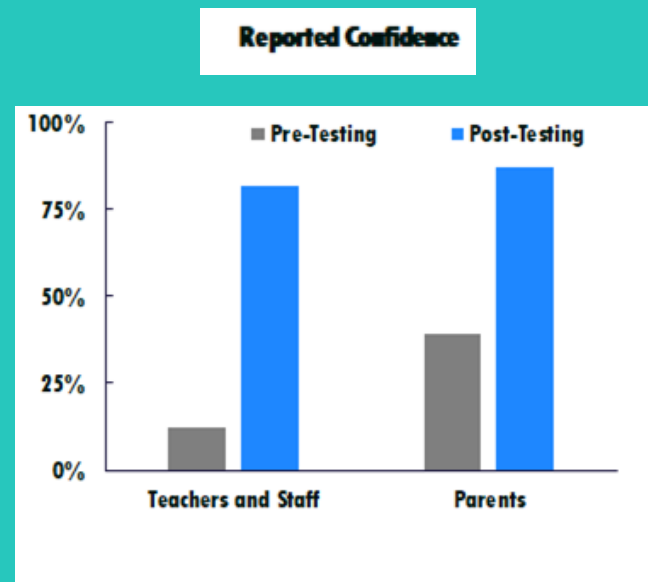
Evidence from Mathematica, supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, found that **weekly testing** of all students, teachers and staff can **reduce in-school infections by an estimated 50%**.



Need for ongoing testing

Surveys in public schools report that over 90% of parents, students, and staff support testing. And 70% more staff/teachers and 48% more parents report feeling confident in the safety of in-person learning when testing programs are in place.

Survey Results (% agree or strongly agree)	Parents	Students	Staff
Testing students, staff and teachers on a regular basis is important to ensure that school can remain open and the WIS community can be as safe as possible	91.8	95.1	92.6
Post-launch: I am open to being part of a pooled testing protocol once or twice a week, with an individual confirmatory test required if the pool is positive	90.3	93.4	98.8



LDH Offers:

FUNDING

- Stipends for School Districts - \$40k
- Stipends for Private, Public, Charter Schools
Option 1 - \$30k
Option 2 - \$14k

Materials

- PPE and Testing Materials
- Testing Team Services
- Easy-to-use parental registration
- Incentives for participants

Support

- LDH Regional COVID Coordinators
- Color Software
- Communications
- Testing and Technical support
- Trainings

School Districts and Schools can choose:

DIY Option 1:

LDH will fund a school-run covid testing program

Turn-Key Option 2:

LDH will fund a testing team to test weekly at the schools

Outbreak Option 3:

Schools can opt-out of weekly testing and can always call LDH in an emergency

Option 1: “The Do It Yourself”

School administered rapid testing

LDH provides the Point-of-Care PCR Testing

- All materials and training provided by LDH to **School COVID-19 Testing Coordinator**: CUE test kits, the readers, technology necessary
- Specimen collected through a lower anterior nasal swab
- School staff uses Color to send registration and consent materials to parents
- School staff administers participant check-in, sample collection, testing, and recording results
- Results available in 15 - 20 minutes
- Results sent to guardians through text or email
- Goal is to hit 20% of participation of the school community
- LDH to provide \$30k in two installments for each school that participates

Option 2: “Turn-key”

Schools will work with LDH-provided testing teams who will provide all services

Lab-processed PCR Testing

- School will be paired with Testing Teams
- Testing teams will coordinate with **School COVID-19 Coordinator** to collect samples on a routine basis
- The sample will be collected using an oral swab or lower anterior nasal swab
- School staff uses Color to send registration and consent materials to parents
- Testing Team will administer participant check-in, sample collection, testing, and recording results
- Results available with a **next-day turnaround**
- Goal is to test 20% of the school community on a routine basis
- LDH to provide \$14.5k in two installments for each school that participates

Option 3: “Outbreak Only”

Schools can opt-out of Routine Testing

This is a voluntary program

- School district or individual school can reach out to LDH in case of suspected outbreak
- LDH will provide a method for testing with a quick turnaround
- If you choose Option 3, you can change your mind

Who is eligible to participate?

All school districts

All K-12 public, charter, private schools

All teachers, staff, students

Athletic teams & school events

What is the Incentive Program?

All participants will be eligible to participate in an incentive program.

LDH will provide reloadable virtual payments or physical cards to participants.

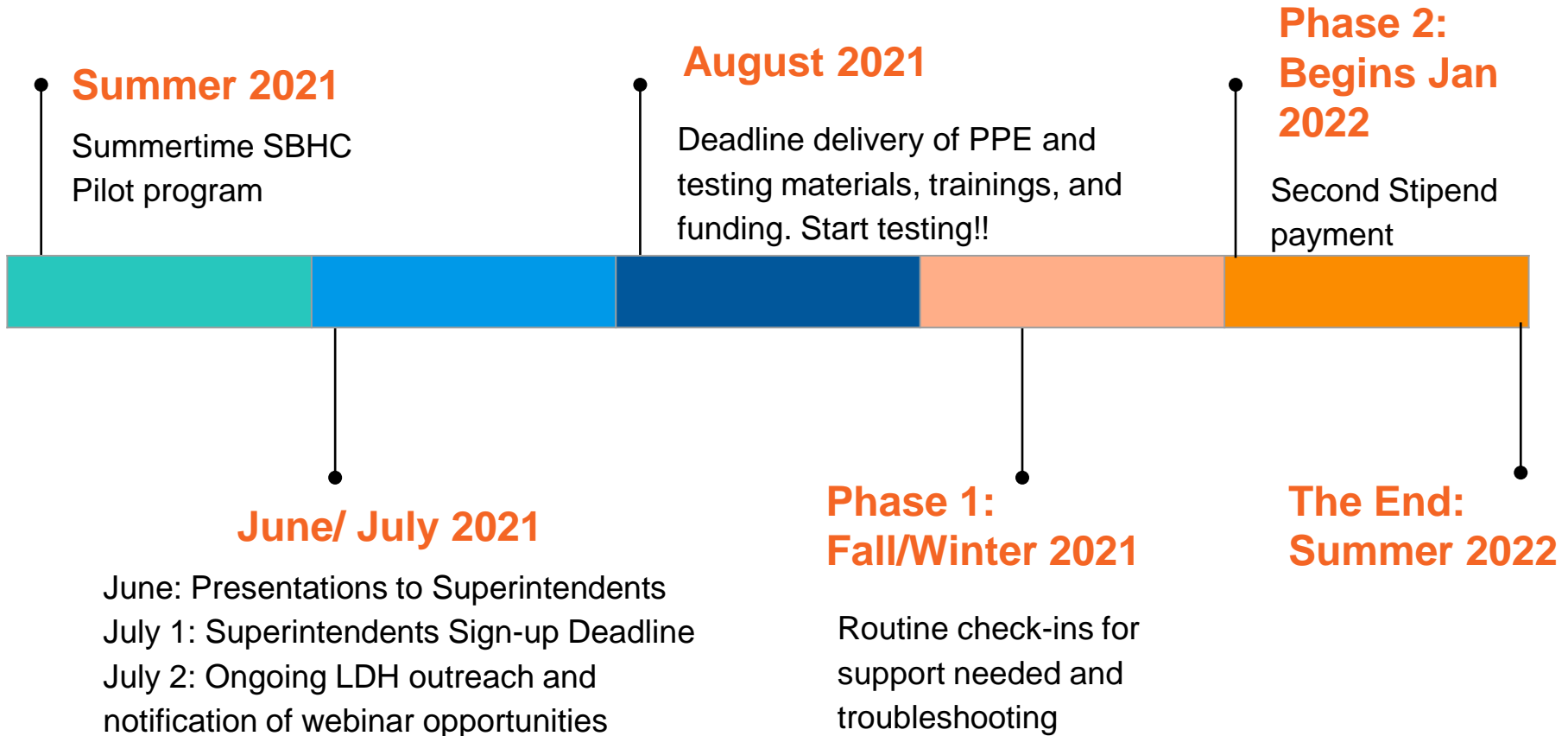
The payments will occur once per month, if the participants have completed three tests in each month. There will be a minimum payment of \$5 per test, therefore each month the participant could receive a minimum of \$15 for three tests and a maximum of \$25.

For Students:

As a part of the initial consent form sent out through the Color platform to parents, there will be a separate consent to participate in the incentive program. Virtual payments can come through email.

For Staff and Teachers: Upon registration, there will be a consent form to participate in the incentive program.

TIMELINE



Sign-up!

tinyurl.com/k-12covidtesting

Questions please email k-12covidtesting@la.gov or call 504 439 0124